

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JMROBERTS:GMH
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SMCCALL
EA/K:FMISCH

-----061696 262025Z /43

O P 261951Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106562

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EAIR, US, JA, KS, UR

SUBJECT:DOWNED KOREAN AIRLINES

REF: MOSCOW 8913

1. PAN AM INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THE KAL AIRCRAFT WAS PURCHASED, NOT LEASED FROM PAN AM, APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO. (FYI: BEFORE DELIVERY TO KAL, PAN AM REPORTS IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY OUTFITTED WITH TWIN INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS, WHICH ARE SOPHISTICATED STATE-OF-THE-ART AIRBORNE DIRECTIONAL UNITS EACH OF WHICH COSTS APPROXIMATELY 100,000 DOLLARS.) PAN AM ALSO INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT A COMPARABLE UNDAMAGED AIRCRAFT IS WORTH ROUGHLY THREE MILLION DOLLARS AND FELT KAL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO
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UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO SALVAGE THE AIRCRAFT IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

2. BOEING HAS A SURVEY TEAM THAT IS PREPARED TO INSPECT THE WRECKAGE TO DETERMINE IF ITS WORTH KAL'S EXPENSE TO MOUNT WHAT WILL BY NECESSITY HAVE TO BE A HURRIED SALVAGE EFFORT. BOEING SPECULATES THAT EVEN IF THE AIRCRAFT CAN

BE MADE FLYABLE, IN SEVERAL WEEKS IT WILL BE TOO RISKY TO ATTEMPT A TAKE-OFF OR TO DISMEMBER IT FOR PARTS.

3. BEFORE BOEING WILL LAUNCH THEIR SURVEY TEAM, KAL WILL HAVE TO CONTACT THEM TO ARRANGE FOR THE TEAM'S SERVICES. THE BOEING OFFICIAL WHO HANDLES THESE MATTERS IS PRATER HOGUE (TELEPHONE 202-237-8525 OR TELEX BOEING, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 32-9430, STATION 613). A PHONE CALL FROM KAL TO HOGUE WILL PROBABLY SUFFICE.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY SEOUL APPRAISE KAL OF BOEING'S WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. ALSO REQUEST YOU DETERMINE THE ACCURACY OF PAN AM'S BELIEF THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS INSTALLED. ANY COMMENTS FROM THE CO-PILOT REGARDING THE DAMAGE THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BOEING AND OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. UPON NOTIFICATION FROM BOEING OR EMBASSY SEOUL THAT THE NECESSARY KAL-BOEING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, DEPARTMENT WILL FORWARD ALL AVAILABLE DATA TO EMBASSY MOSCOW.

5. GIVEN EXPECTED SOVIET SENSITIVITY THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY MOSCOW'S SUGGESTION ON HOW, IN THE EVENT, A REQUEST FOR THE BOEING TEAM VISIT SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE SOVIETS.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPARE PARTS, AIRLINES, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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